

## *Super-Quiz No. 1*

This is only a spelling quiz . . . but we're willing to wager that it's the toughest one you've ever seen.

We have selected 25 English words, names, or terms. For each one, we have given you the pronunciation (respelling the word or name rather grotesquely for that purpose) and the meaning. All you need to do is to write down the correct spelling. Score yourself as follows: 15 or more correct, very good; 20 or more correct, superior; 25 correct, impossible (and we *do* mean impossible!). You will find the correct answers on page 61 of this issue.

Before plunging into this spelling test, you should understand the principles involved. To pass the test, you must know the letters with which the words are spelled, but that is only the beginning. There are four other factors for you to consider:

- (1) This quiz does not limit itself, artificially, to ordinary words. Included are some of the proper names sprinkled through our linguistic environment, and these are normally written in capitalized form. Therefore, you must decide whether or not each word should be capitalized. If you overlook capitalizing a proper name, score yourself wrong.
- (2) Most spelling quizzes restrict themselves to words written in solid form ("majority," for example). They carefully avoid hyphenated words such as "big-hearted" and compound terms such as "snake charmer." There are no such exclusions here. For each term, you must consider whether it should be written solidly, or with a hyphen, or in the form of separate words. Any error of judgment on your part, and you're wrong!
- (3) Many words must be adorned with apostrophes, accent marks, circumflexes, umlauts, cedillas, and other diacritical marks, to be written correctly. You will encounter such words in this quiz. You cannot take credit for spelling a word correctly unless you get any required adornments just right. For instance, if a word needs an acute accent ( ' ) and you provide it with a grave accent ( ` ), that counts as a mistake. Nothing short of absolute correctness will do.

- (4) Some words may be spelled in more than one way. In the case of such words, we have consulted three leading American dictionary authorities of the 1960's:

- (a) *Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language* (1961)
- (b) *Funk & Wagnalls Standard College Dictionary* (1963)
- (c) *The Random House Dictionary of the English Language* (1966)

Where all three of these authorities agree on the preferred spelling, that is the only spelling qualifying as correct for the purposes of this quiz. We feel that there is no justification for your use of a spelling second-rated by all major dictionaries. Where the three authorities differ in regard to the preferred spelling, all spellings shown as preferred in at least one of the authorities have been included in our answers, and you must not count yourself as correct unless you have duplicated the spellings we have listed. Again, we feel that if alternate spellings of a word are so common that different leading dictionaries exercise different judgments as to which one is preferred, you should be familiar with the alternatives.

The three dictionaries listed above have also been consulted for the spellings of all other words, and for meaning and pronunciation. In a few instances, other authorities were checked for corroborating evidence. For instance, Webster's omits most proper names; for such names, an additional authority was examined to provide a three-way check.

Here is the spelling quiz. You have our best wishes for success.

<i>Term</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
1. KYOOH	A pendent braid of hair.
2. TEYHT-UH-TAIT	A private conversation between two persons.
3. UH-EE-DHAH	An opera by Verdi.
4. VITTLE	To supply with food.
5. QOO-DHAY-TTAH	The sudden overthrow of a government.
6. CWANN-TUSS	An Australian-based airline.
7. SEYH-LLAH-BELLE	Fit to be sold, marketable.
8. VWAH-LLAA	There! Behold!
9. GHET-URR-DEM-ERE-OONKH	The twilight of the gods.
10. OUESS-KITT	An ornamental garment worn under a doublet.
11. OHN-TRAHKKT	A musical interlude performed between acts.
12. YOHH-GGHERT	A curdled milk product.
13. PHOAK-CELLH	Part of the upper deck of a ship.
14. BRIHK-UHH-BRACKH	Miscellaneous small articles or curios.
15. OCC-WAH-VHEET	A dry, Scandinavian liquor.
16. NICE	A coarse-grained, metamorphic rock.
17. VEEH-SHEEH-SWAHZZ	A potato cream soup.
18. SHEH-VVOUH-OASS	The Jewish festival of Pentecost.
19. HAYPP-NNEEH	A British bronze coin.
20. SHEH-DHOAVERH	A literary or artistic masterpiece.
21. DOU-IZZEM	One of the principal Chinese religions.

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|-------------------------|--|
| 22. ELLEH-MAHSSEN-ERRIE | Pertaining to charity or alms.                             |
| 23. TOBBLE-DOATT        | A restaurant meal of prearranged courses at a fixed price. |
| 24. VEEH-ETT-MINNE      | The North Vietnamese Communists.                           |
| 25. CHUMM-LEE           | A surname of the English nobility.                         |

\* \* \*

### IDA BY THE WINDOW

Howard W. Bergerson

*Sweet Home, Oregon*

Ma, I so resign.  
It's all a poet air.

Ben is, I see, so Greek.  
In sly dissent I wore no gay ruff.

O see by a brae his nag roll or yaw?  
A.W.O.L. laws (as are every god's) are a dire rod.

Aye, fade with gin—O, too wispily,  
Sordid rosy lips I woo.

Tonight I wed a fey adorer, Ida.  
Eras do gyre—veer as a swallow away.

Roll, organs I hear! Bay, bees of fury ago!  
Nero, witness idyls Nike ergo sees!

Is inebriate Opal lasting? Is Eros?  
I am!

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The foregoing poem is remarkable for being one, continuous palindrome of 311 letters, reading the same backward as it does forward. Such an extraordinary creation must, perforce, be possessed of a very special message for humanity. Readers are invited to attempt suitable interpretations of the poem and to submit these to the editor for consideration.)

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### REINFORCED WORDS

There are some English words that have been reinforced or fortified against attack from either side by having their first and last letters doubled. Examples of such words include AALII (a small Hawaiian tree), EELGRASS, EERINESS, LLUDD (a mythical king of Britain), O-O-A-A (a small Hawaiian bird), OORDOO (a form of the Hindustani language), and OOZINESS.

We earnestly commend this fine defensive tactic to the attention of all other words.